

## Cause-specific Mortality

A reported 333 deaths occurred to N.C. Indian residents during 1977. Sixty-eight percent were males. This compares to 57.3% males among white deaths and 57.8% males among all nonwhite deaths. Computed from grouped data, median ages at death were:

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
White	66.9	75.3
Nonwhite	62.1	67.1
Indian	54.6	63.8

Compared to reservation Indians (38 deaths), nonreservation Indian decedents (295) were younger in the case of males and older in the case of females.

Table 3  
Race-specific Number and Percentage  
of Deaths by Underlying Cause  
North Carolina, 1977

<u>Underlying Cause of Death</u>	<u>Total</u>		<u>White</u>		<u>Indian</u>		<u>Other Nonwhite</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Percent</u>
All Causes	46,593		34,624		333		11,636	
Heart Disease	16,929	36.3	13,217	38.2	91	27.3	3,621	31.1
Acute Myocardial Infarction	8,217	17.6	6,791	19.6	45	13.5	1,381	11.9
Other Ischemic Heart Disease	6,758	14.5	5,072	14.6	32	9.6	1,654	14.2
Hypertension	182	0.4	94	0.3	2	0.6	86	0.7
Cerebrovascular Diseases	5,022	10.8	3,671	10.6	31	9.3	1,320	11.3
Arteriosclerosis	626	1.3	487	1.4	7	2.1	132	1.1
Cancer	8,583	18.4	6,566	19.0	33	9.9	1,984	17.1
Cancer of the Stomach	295	0.6	193	0.6	2	0.6	100	0.9
Cancer of the Colon and Rectum	953	2.0	754	2.2	2	0.6	197	1.7
Cancer of the Pancreas	468	1.0	350	1.0	3	0.9	115	1.0
Cancer of the Trachea, Bronchus and Lung	2,006	4.3	1,592	4.6	6	1.8	408	3.5
Female Breast Cancer	733	1.6	574	1.7	3	0.9	159	1.4
Cancer of the Cervix Uteri	154	0.3	88	0.3	0	0.0	66	0.6
Cancer of the Ovary, Fallopian Tube and Broad Ligament	227	0.5	191	0.6	0	0.0	36	0.3
Cancer of the Prostate	510	1.1	299	0.9	4	1.2	207	1.8
Leukemia	343	0.7	278	0.8	4	1.2	61	0.5
Diabetes Mellitus	820	1.8	546	1.6	11	3.3	263	2.3
Influenza and Pneumonia	1,343	2.9	1,018	2.9	7	2.1	318	2.7
Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease*	1,068	2.3	950	2.7	4	1.2	114	1.0
Cirrhosis of the Liver	718	1.5	479	1.4	1	0.3	238	2.0
Nephritis and Nephrosis	309	0.7	161	0.5	4	1.2	144	1.2
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1,440	3.1	1,035	3.0	30	9.0	375	3.2
Accidents Excluding Motor Vehicles	1,663	3.6	1,110	3.2	25	7.5	528	4.5
Suicide	732	1.6	652	1.9	7	2.1	73	0.6
Homicide	632	1.4	309	0.9	21	6.3	302	2.6

\*Includes Bronchitis, Emphysema and Asthma.

Table 3 compares underlying causes of death among whites, Indians and other nonwhites. Indian decedents were much more likely to have died of external (violent) causes and much less likely to have died of cardiovascular diseases, cancer and other conditions associated with aging. Exceptions are arteriosclerosis, leukemia and